

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete page 8, lines 21-27 and insert the following.

The binder contains a fluorinated acid. Examples of fluorinated acids include hydrofluoric acid, ammonium fluoride, tris-hydrofluoric acid, ammonium hydrogen difluoride, potassium hydrogen bifluoride, tetrafluoroboric acid, hexafluorophosphoric acid, hexafluorosilicic acid, N,N-diisopropyl-amine-tris (hydrogenfluoride), and N,N'-dimethyl-2-imidazolidone-hexakis(hydrogenfluoride). Preferably, the fluorinated acid is hydrofluoric acid, most preferably an aqueous solution of hydrofluoric acid, containing from 10 to 90 weight percent water, preferably 30 to 60 weight percent water.